

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 3, 2012

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Auditorium/Library. Members present were Teri Maia-Cicero, Acting Chairwoman; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Mark Rafanelli, Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden, Claudine Pande, and Lee Kissinger. Others present: Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, Student Member Angela Russo

ORDER – Acting Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Clerk Zuercher read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – None

RECOGNITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS – Welcoming – New School Committee Member – Dr. Geismar welcomed new School Committee Member Lee Kissinger, who was recently appointed by the West Greenwich Town Council to fill the vacant position resulting from the resignation of Greg Coutcher of West Greenwich.

High School Girls' Varsity & JV Volleyball Teams – State Champions – Dr. Geismar recognized the Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team as the Division II State Champions for the second year in a row. He told team members that the School Committee is glad to honor them for the phenomenal job they did this season. The Exeter Town Council had planned to honor both volleyball and soccer team members and coaches; however, its meeting fell on the same night as the School Committee meeting. Therefore, Member McFadden will present recognition certificates on the Council's behalf. Team members were called forward and presented with Recognition Certificates and gift cards. Coach Bednarczyk and Assistant Coach Watterson were presented with Recognition Certificates.

2011 NSCAA Region Coach of the Year – Kevin Fraser – Superintendent Geismar called soccer coach Kevin Fraser forward and reported that Coach Fraser has been selected as the 2011 National Soccer Coaches Association of American (NSCAA) Region Coach of the Year! Coach Fraser will be honored for this achievement with a special award at the NSCAA Convention in Kansas City. He is one of four finalists competing for National Coach of the Year. Dr. Geismar and School Committee members offered congratulations to Coach Fraser and presented him with Recognition Certificates and a School Committee Apple Recognition Award.

High School Girls' Soccer Team – State Champions – Superintendent Geismar recognized the Girls' Soccer Team as the Division II State

**Champions for the second year in a row. Dr. Geismar praised the team for its great accomplishment. Each team member was presented with Recognition Certificates and a gift card. [Assistant Coach
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Marmas was unable to attend tonight's meeting. He will also be given Recognition Certificates.]

High School Girls' Varsity & JV Volleyball Teams – State Champions – Dr. Geismar invited Coach Bednarczyk and Coach Watterson back up to assist in recognizing the Girls' JV Volleyball Team as the Division II State Champions for the third year in a row. Team member were presented with Recognition Certificates and gift cards. Dr. Geismar invited everyone to stay for cake.

Following a brief refreshment break, Acting Chair Cicero called the meeting back to order (in the high school library at 6:28 p.m.).

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION – Election of School Committee Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Clerk, RIASC Delegate, and SORICO – Acting Chair Cicero reviewed the voting process to elect School Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk.

Member Pande moved to nominate Teri Cicero as School Committee Chairperson. Clerk Zuercher seconded the motion.

Student Member Russo collected members' paper ballot votes and read the results aloud. Vote: 7 – 0 in favor for Teri Cicero. The motion passed to elect Teri Cicero as Chairperson.

Member McFadden made a motion to nominate Valerie Zuercher as Vice Chairperson. Member Donovan seconded the motion.

Member Pande made a motion to nominate Mark Rafanelli as Vice Chairperson. Member Kissinger seconded the motion.

Student Member Russo collected members' paper ballot votes and read the results aloud. Vote: 4 for Mark Rafanelli, 3 for Valerie Zuercher. The motion passed 4 – 3 to elect Mark Rafanelli as Vice Chairperson.

Revisions to School Committee Member Assignments – Members indicated if they were interested in serving on standing committee seats vacated by Greg Coutcher.

The School Committee Organization Assignments [as revised on 1/3/2012] are as follows:

Career & Tech. Centers (1) Teri Cicero

Food Service Liaison (1) McFadden/Cicero

District Improvement (3) Cicero/Rafanelli/Zuercher

Graduation Requirements Cicero/Zuercher

West Greenwich Council Liaison Teri Cicero

Exeter Council Liaison Teri Donovan

Curriculum Director Liaison (1) Zuercher/Pande/Cicero

Legislation Action Group Liaison (1) Pande/Rafanelli

Building Committee (2) Kissinger/Rafanelli

NE-CHPS Advisory Design Committee (2) Kissinger/Rafanelli

Transportation Subcommittee Teri Donovan

Policy Subcommittee (2) McFadden/Pande/Cicero-(Geismar/Clay)

Health and Wellness/School Wellness (2) Cicero/Zuercher

Town Finance/Charter Review Kissinger/Rafanelli

Member Pande made a motion to move up, Policies Review/Adoption→ on the agenda; seconded by Vice Chair Rafanelli; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS – Policies Review/Adoption – 6260: Professional

Responsibilities and Workplace Ethic – 1st Reading –6311: Educator Evaluation – 1st Reading –

6310: Recruiting and Managing the Human Capital – 1st Reading – Dr. Geismar told the committee that the three policies presented tonight are for first reading. School Committees in Rhode Island must adopt policies that are consistent with the BEP and RIDE regulations. These policies have been reviewed by the policy subcommittee and legal counsel.

Member Rafanelli said that he will email questions he has relating to phrasing, along with his rationale to clarify his intent, to the Superintendent for the policy subcommittee. Policy subcommittee Member Bill Clay requested that Member Rafanelli submit his questions without delay to allow adequate time to have the policies ready in time for the next School Committee meeting. Chair Cicero thanked Mr. Clay for all the hard work he puts into researching and writing policies.

These policies will continue to the next regular School Committee meeting agenda for second reading.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Angela Russo gave a final account of the events she reported on at the last meeting. Clare Schroeder's Blood

Drive was very successful and beat the school record. Sixty-three (63) pints of blood were collected. The family was very thankful! The

DECA Club's gift drive was a great success, resulting in giving over thirty (30) gifts to fifteen families in the district.

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Student Council members held a Club assembly. In an effort to increase student involvement, representatives spoke to sophomores and freshmen about the various extra-curricular activities offered at the high school. When eighth grade course selection assemblies are held, some club representatives attend to inform those students of the clubs that are available to them at the high school.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Vice Chair Rafanelli requested to pull the Bills from the consent agenda.

Member Pande made a motion to accept the consent agenda with the exception of the Bills. Clerk Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 7 - 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of December 6, 2011

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments - (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Leon Stamas as Sr. High School Assistant Wrestling Coach,

Stipend \$2,696.91, effective for the 2011 – 2012 school year

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – Item Pulled

D. Home School Approval

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) School Committee Presentation Schedule for 2012; (2) December 8, 2011 Memo to School Committee/Superintendent Geismar from Janet Olsson, CMC West Greenwich Town Clerk Regarding EWG School Committee Member appointment; (3) November 28, 2011 Letter to Maura Skahan, President EWG Teachers' Association from Dr. Geismar

Clerk Zuercher referenced Correspondence (3) and questioned whether there has been a response. Dr. Geismar said there has not been a response yet.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent –

Business – In response to Member Pande's inquiry, Mr. Ross said that the cafeteria project is complete.

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Special Education

Maintenance

Technology

NEW BUSINESS – Water Fountain at Metcalf School – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the water fountain located in the entrance courtyard of the Metcalf School has been removed.

Discuss Proposed RIDE Career Technical Education Regulations and Approve Resolution (Draft Career and Technical Education Regulations) – Principal Butler distributed copies of the Board of Regents Draft Proposed Regulations Governing Career and Technical Education. He gave a comprehensive overview on the various ways that the proposed restructuring of career and technical education would negatively impact the district in terms of its fiscal priorities. Principal Butler said it is alleged that the Board of Regents intends to vote in favor of the draft regulations at its meeting on Thursday evening at 4:00 PM, [at RIDE in room 501]. The career and technical directors he has spoken to have communicated that they do not want this to pass. Overall consensus is that the draft regulations were not

vetted as they should be. He referenced the Resolution (Draft Career and Technical Education Regulations) enclosed in members' packets that, if the School Committee approves, will be sent on to RIDE. He said that principals and directors have agreed that if all endorse the Resolution, to attend the meeting on Thursday to at least get the Board of Regents to table this item so that this can be further vetted to at least have the appropriate individuals at the table to meet all concerns. Principal Butler asked the School Committee to endorse the Resolution and to allow him to go on Thursday evening to represent the School Committee to voice concerns.

Principal Butler answered members' clarifying questions.

Member McFadden made a motion to authorize Brian Butler to bring the concerns of the Exeter-West Greenwich School Department to the Board of Regents regarding the re-regionalization of technical education regulations. And to ask the Chairman of the EWG School Committee and Clerk to sign and authorize the enclosure in the meeting packet regarding this matter dated today; seconded by Vice Chair Rafanelli; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Chair Cicero and Clerk Zuercher signed the document - Resolution (Draft Career and Technical Education Regulations). The Resolution will be forwarded to every Regent, The RI Commissioner of Education, each of the Regional Career and Technical Centers in the State of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chaffee.

SORICO Update – Dr. Geismar reported that the SORICO building sold and SORICO has resolved. He said that he would report back to the School Committee detailing what that would mean monetarily to the district as soon as that information is available.

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Approve RFP for Truck Purchase – Mr. Ross presented his recommendation to purchase a replacement vehicle for the 2001 Ford F150 pickup truck that is used by the Facilities and Maintenance Department. He requested School Committee approval to proceed with an RFP. Upon completion of the RFP, a recommendation for purchase will be brought back for School Committee approval. Mr. Ross reported that the 2001 truck has extensive rot. The repairs needed to pass inspection would cost approximately \$1,000. Rossi Auto Care of West Greenwich, (mechanic of record since 2001) has advised that making the repairs would not guarantee that the vehicle would pass inspection, and it would be unwise to invest money into the truck at this time. Mr. Ross noted that Maintenance Director Bill Plumley has been reporting this out to the committee for approximately one-year. Currently, a 2012 Ford F150 basic four-wheel drive pickup truck with a plow package costs approximately \$34,000.

Member McFadden moved to authorize procurement of a similar vehicle for the now obsolete, no longer functioning vehicle for the

maintenance department; seconded by Clerk Zuercher.

Member Pande questioned if the district could take advantage of year-end sales and explore purchasing a 2011 vehicle vs. a 2012. Mr. Ross agreed to do so and rectified that the district would need to purchase a 250 series pickup truck with a plow package. Although his memo references a 150 series vehicle, the current truck is in fact of the 250 series.

Member McFadden said that he would then modify the bid spec so that his motion should include that the RFP will include a brief description of a 250 series pickup truck so not to predispose a specific manufacturer. Clerk Zuercher seconded.

Member Donovan's asked a number of clarifying questions. Mr. Ross recommended purchasing a new vehicle vs. a used vehicle because of the plow package. Member McFadden and Clerk Zuercher voiced opposition to permitting employees to drive the uninspected 2001 pickup truck. Member McFadden stressed the importance of procuring a new vehicle as soon as possible. The committee agreed to add this item to the January 10 and January 17 Budget Workshops Agenda in the event that RFP information becomes available sooner, rather than waiting until the next regular meeting of January 24.

Vote 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Approve 2012 – 2013 School Calendar – Dr. Geismar presented the 2012 – 2013 school calendar, mirroring Chariho School District’s calendar with regard to the start date, end date, and vacations. He pointed out that there is one new proposed change for next year that is pending approval from the Commissioner of

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Education. The district would hold Kindergarten Screenings from August 29 – 31. Kindergarten students would then start school on September 4. The RI Department of Education allows up to a five-day waiver for these types of screenings for kindergarten students. Principal Marino answered members’ questions and gave an overview of the

current Kindergarten Screening process/timeline. She said that the new format would be

less disruptive to the educational flow. It would afford a good transition for students and families to meet teachers, and would provide a nice fluid way to do screenings without having to hire substitute teachers.

Member Pande questioned if fellow members are of the mindset that since Chariho and Coventry declined changing next year’s school

calendar to a one-week March vacation that the committee does not want to entertain that. She said that she is still in favor of the one-week March vacation format, which is less disruptive to the educational flow. She has no problem with a one-year trial to see how it goes. Although, she does not want to postpone approving the calendar tonight, if no one else is onboard. Clerk Zuercher reiterated that she does not want EWG to be the only district in the state on a different schedule. Member Kissinger agreed that unless the entire region or state chooses to change, EWG should remain unchanged because changes would conflict with scheduled events and that would put EWG students at a disadvantage. Member Rafanelli said that he agrees with Member Pande regarding the flow of education; however, agrees also that being on a different calendar would hinder students. Member Donovan said that she has supported the one-week break calendar but now that Coventry and Chariho are not onboard, she cannot support alienating EWG students. She said that she would reluctantly support the traditional February/April vacation calendar format.

Member Rafanelli moved to accept the [2012 – 2013] calendar as presented by the Superintendent; seconded by Clerk Zuercher; and voted 6 – 1 in favor. Member Pande voted no. The motion carried.

Member Rafanelli asked the Superintendent to request feedback from Chariho as to why they declined changing the calendar for next year. Dr. Geismar said that he would report back with that information and

with the commissioner's decision regarding Kindergarten.

Capital Project Update – None

Reports/Comments – Chair Cicero reverted to the Bills that were pulled from the Consent Agenda by Member Rafanelli.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Bills – Mr. Ross and Dr. Geismar

answered Member Rafanelli's questions regarding expenditures to various vendors. Mr.

Ross said that he would verify and report back on whether or not the expenditure to Shell

Gasoline was for one-month worth of purchases.

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In response to Member McFadden's inquiry, Dr. Geismar said that budget books should

be available for the School Committee by Friday. In response to Member Donovan's

inquiry, Mr. Ross said that the budget books would be available electronically as well.

Member Pande moved to accept the Bills; seconded by Vice Chair

Rafanelli; and voted

7 – 0 in favor.

The following item was approved:

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA

C. Bills – In the amount of \$384,397.66

Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, January 10, 2012-Budget Workshop; Tuesday, January 17, 2012-Budget Workshop; Tuesday, January 24, 2012-School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Clerk Zuercher moved to go into Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C94/Teachers' Association) – Negotiation Discussion and/or Pending Litigation; seconded by Member Pande; and voted as follows:

Teri Cicero Yes

Mark Rafanelli Yes

Valerie Zuercher Yes

Theresa Donovan Yes

Paul McFadden Yes

Claudine Pande Yes

Lee Kissinger Yes

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:43 p.m.

Member McFadden left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Clerk Zuercher moved to reconvene to Open Session; seconded by Vice Chair Rafanelli; and voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:40 p.m.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment – Member Donovan moved to adjourn; Clerk Zuercher seconded the motion; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK